

Appl. No. 09/823,131
Amdt. Dated 07/11/2005
Reply to the Final Office Action of May 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 25, 2005. In the Office Action, claims 5 and 14 were objected because these claims contained patentable subject matter, but were dependent upon a rejected base claims 1 and 11. While Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of these claims, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 to include the limitations set forth in objected claims 5 and 14, respectively. Claims 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 11 as well as dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-13 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-13, 15-21 and 23 11-14, 17-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over Spear (USP 6,611,925) in view of Garrison (EP 2069745 A1). Moreover, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Walsh. Moreover, claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walsh in view of Garrison and Walsh (USP 5,956,481).

In order to facilitate prosecution of the case, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to place these claims into condition for allowance by adding limitations set forth in objected claims 5 and 14. As a result, claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-13 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance.

Of course, if any further discussion is needed to facilitate prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to further discuss the allowability of the pending claims if the Examiner still considers the claims are not in condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at the telephone number listed below.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 11, 2005

By

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Date: 07/11/2005


Susan McFarlane

07/11/2005

Date